Presentation to the TASA/UNSW, Workshop

“The Future Workforce of Australian Social Science”

Professor Marian Simms
ARC Executive Director
The Australian Research Council (ARC) is an independent statutory agency within the Education Portfolio. The ARC’s main responsibilities are:

- providing funding for research through the competitive funding schemes of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP);
- providing policy advice on research matters to Government;
- Evaluating research quality in Australia through the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) exercise;
- and, together with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), administering the Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC).
The Australian Research Council

Major policy submissions to national inquiries, such as “Into Research Training and Research Workforce Issues in Australian Universities” and “Review of the National Innovation System”. See http://www.arc.gov.au/general/arc_publications.htm

Framing idea of supporting excellent research across disciplines leads to innovation.

Major challenges facing universities were identified as follows:
The Australian Research Council

- Factors for graduates that determine pursuit of a career in research.
- Adequacy of training and support (including income support) available to research graduates in Australia.
- Opportunities for career advancement for research graduates and staff.
- Factors determining pursuit of research opportunities overseas.
- Australia’s ability to compete internationally for high quality researchers.
- Whether Australia’s academic workforce is ageing, and the impact this may have on Australia’s research capacity.
Research Opportunity

- The ARC is committed to ensuring all eligible researchers have fair access to competitive funding through the National Competitive Grants Program.
- The ARC considers that Research Opportunity comprises two separate elements:
  - Career experiences (relative to opportunity)
  - Career interruptions
- The new ROPE Statement (released Feb 2014) is online at:
Government support for research and development in Australia: 2013-14

- Block Funding to Higher Ed. 21.9%
- Higher Ed. R&D Support 0.9%
- ARC 10.2%
- NHMRC and Other Health 10.9%
- CRCs 1.7%
- Rural 3.9%
- Energy and the Environment 2.4%
- Other Science Support 2.4%
- DSTO 4.9%
- Govt. R&D Activities 7.4%
- Industry R&D Tax Measures 19.4%
- Other Innovation Support 5.0%
- Other Business R&D Support 0.1%
ARC NCGP funding by 2-Digit FoR (%), 2006-2013.
The ARC

National Competitive Grants Program
$883.9M in 2013-14

- Discovery and Fellowships
  $551.4 M

- Linkage and Centres
  $332.4 M

Evaluation and Policy

Excellence in Research for Australia
National Competitive Grants Program

**Discovery Program**
- Laureate Fellowships
- DECRA
- Discovery Indigenous

**Linkage Program**
- Centres of Excellence
- Co-Funded & SRI
- ITRP
- Linkage Projects
- LIEF

**Discovery Program Funding**
2013-14 - $551.4 million

**Linkage Program Funding**
2013-14 - $332.4 million
Total success rate (all schemes, Start Year 2002 to 2014) and number of proposals received in NCGP panels
Number of projects funded in DP (DECRA not included), by commencement year
Success rate in *Discovery Projects* and *Linkage Projects* (commencement year 2002 to 2014 – LP14 not available)
Total Success rate in all schemes (start year 2002 to 2014)
(2014 data not available for LP14, FT14, FL14)
Average number of researchers (including Partner Investigators) on each *Discovery Projects* proposal
Combined success rate by discipline and scheme (proposals between commencement year 2007 to 2013)
Number of Partner Organisations on Linkage Projects (2010 to 2013)

- **Political Science**: 5
- **Sociology**: 65
- **Policy and Administration**: 126
Partner orgs on Linkage Projects